

PRESS RELEASE

House Armed Services Committee Floyd D. Spence, Chairman

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 23, 2000

CONTACT: Maureen Cragin Ryan Vaart (202) 225-2539

SPENCE REACTS TO PATRIOT MISSILE (PAC-2) FAILURE

"I am very concerned by the recent failure rates of the PAC-2 missiles. This missile system represents the nation's only capability to defend against theater ballistic missiles and is critical to the protection and readiness of our forces deployed overseas.

"I was briefed by the Army yesterday and have been assured that all of the missiles in question have been replaced with operable missiles and that our forces are not at an increased level of risk. However, I am concerned that these steps are only short-term and the long-term solution for fixing yet another military shortfall has not yet been determined. The committee will closely monitor the Army's efforts to determine the cause of the failure, as well as procedures to ensure that such incidents do not occur in the future."

###